GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3355
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
SIDE EFFECT OF VIAGRA
Mehta Shri Alok Kumar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Viagra can cause blindness among some men as reported in the `Hindustan Times` dated 28 May, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the said drug or its substitute manufactured by Pfizer inc, is being sold in the Indian market; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) There have been some instances abroad, where patients of erectile dysfunction taking the drug Viagra (Sildenafil Citrate) have reported blindness. However, causal relationship of the reported cases of blindness with Sildenafil has not been established.

(b) Sildenafil Citrate tablets are currently being marketed in the country by various firms under various brand names.

(c) The matter was examined extensively including by Drugs Technical Advisory Committee (DTAB). As per the recommendations of DTAB, the matter is being examined in consultation with subject medical experts including urologists.